

# NORTH AMERICAN WATERBIRD CONSERVATION PLAN

www.nacwcp.org

*NEWSLETTER 2001-08-13*

Compiled by Jim Kushlan (Steering Committee Chair – [jkushlan@al.com](mailto:jkushlan@al.com)), Melanie Steinkamp (Project Director and Waterbird Monitoring Coordinator – [melanie\\_steinkamp@usgs.gov](mailto:melanie_steinkamp@usgs.gov)) and Jennifer Wheeler (Waterbird Coordinator – [Jennifer\\_A\\_Wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_A_Wheeler@fws.gov)).

## *Purpose of Newsletter:*

This is the second in a series of newsletters to the Regional Working Groups, Steering Committee, and Advisory Committee to keep everyone up to date on happenings in the North American Waterbird Conservation Initiative. Please use what is useful, provide feedback, and share additional ideas as they occur. Please submit short reports on your activities for the next Newsletter, which will be sent when we have more information to share.

## *Staffing News:*

### Waterbird Coordinator

Our biggest news is the recruitment of a Waterbird Coordinator, Jennifer Wheeler. She can be reached at (703) 358-1714 or by email at [Jennifer\\_A\\_Wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_A_Wheeler@fws.gov). Jennifer was hired via a term appointment to the Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The position is funded this year through a partnership among International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and USFWS. Our goal is that the position is to become permanent as soon as possible.

The Plan views the Waterbird Coordinator position as essential to the long-term implementation of the Initiative. The ultimate role of this position is to assume responsibility for coordinating the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. The present priority is to facilitate the development of regional conservation plans by assisting regional working groups, organizing workshops, facilitating regional discussions and information exchange, and coordination of planning among regional working group leaders. She will also be focusing on the continued integration of waterbird conservation with other migratory bird initiatives, providing increased participation and integration of waterbird conservation activities into FWS programs and initiatives, and promoting strengthened ties with other Federal, State and private research institutions. She will also be assisting with the development of the Marshbird Plan (Volume II of the Plan), the production of the final draft of the Colonial Waterbird part of the Plan (Volume I), and maintaining the Waterbird Initiative web site.

### Important Bird Area (IBA) Coordinator

We are also pleased to announce that the National Audubon Society has hired John Cecil as an IBA Assistant Coordinator. John Cecil is located at the Audubon Science Center in Burks County, PA (P.O. Box 689, Lahaska, PA 18931, [jcecil@audubon.org](mailto:jcecil@audubon.org), (215) 297-9040.).

One of John's main duties will be to work under the Waterbird Initiative to identify waterbird IBAs in the country that qualify at the national or higher level based on BirdLife criteria and to assure they are incorporated into the international IBA database. To do so, John will work with Jennifer and the Regional Working Groups in identifying candidate waterbird IBAs in the regions and assembling information on them. John will gather the recommendations and information from the Working Groups and process the nomination of the sites for global, continental or national IBA status.

John, as well as senior Audubon staff will also provide assistance to facilitate the efforts of Regional Working Groups in identifying, nominating, evaluating, and implementing waterbird IBA's at the Regional level or below.

More information on IBAs is provided below.

#### Staff Roles in the Initiative

With the addition of Jennifer and John to the team, the Initiative's staffing is now maturing. To avoid overwhelming the new team, responsibilities will transfer slowly, so Jim Kushlan and Melanie Steinkamp will continue to staff the Initiative as well. Melanie continues to serve as the Waterbird Plan Project Director out of the USGS. She also is responsible for coordinating the Continental Waterbird Monitoring Program and database for the USGS. She will continue to take the lead for review of the continental colonial waterbird portion of the plan (Volume I), facilitating the development of the marshbird plan (Volume II), developing the continent-wide monitoring program, and communication linkages with the Steering and Advisory Committees. Jim Kushlan will continue to work with the Steering Committee, drafting of the continental plans, and funding planning and infrastructure needs. Jim and Melanie will continue to be lead representation of the Initiative in NABCI, Jim as Council member, Melanie as Council staff. Jim and Melanie will also continue to take the lead for the PUPs outside the US and Canada and represent the Initiatives views on the NABCI International Committee and to IAFWA committees.

Jim's new contact information is: James Kushlan, Senior Science Advisor, US Geological Survey, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, PO Box 1930, Edgewater MD 21037-1930, 410-263-4206 and 443-956-9548, [jkushlan@aol.com](mailto:jkushlan@aol.com).

#### *Plan Status*

##### Colonial Waterbirds – NAWP Volume I

The second draft of Volume I of the continental waterbird plan is now almost ready for review. It has been transmitted to the Steering Committee, and we await only information on the revised species conservation status assessment prior to releasing it to Advisory Committee members by posting it to the web site. We anticipate having a second review period of no more than a couple of months and then we will move into a final editing.

##### Marshbird Plan – NAWP Volume II

The workshop on the Marshbird Plan component of the continental Plan is to be held on August 21 and 22 in Denver, Colorado. Details are on the web site. We expect over 70 participants in

the workshop, which is being co-sponsored by the Wildlife Management Institute and IAFWA. The goal of the workshop is provide information needed for a Working Group to draft a continental scale conservation plan for marshbirds as a complement to the colonial waterbird portion of the plan.

#### Conservation Status Assessment

Kathy Parsons ([parsonsk@manomet.org](mailto:parsonsk@manomet.org)), lead of the Conservation Status Assessment Subcommittee, has conducted a review and revision of the North American Conservation Status Assessment. Taxon and geographic specialist groups have almost completed their reviews. The continental scores and prioritization categories for colonial species will be included in the second draft of the continental plan (Volume I).

Following production of the continental results, the status assessment for colonial species will be conducted on the BCR level. In preparation for this, species lists for BCRs (and Mexico and the countries of Central America) have been created, along with Area Importance Factors, used to scale continental information to the BCR-level.

The status assessment for marshbirds, added to the Plan last fall, awaits input from the upcoming marshbird meeting. Draft species lists for BCRs, which will be used to scale down continental results, have been generated and should be available at the meeting.

Website – We are in the process of changing the site address for the waterbird plan. The new web address will be [www.nawcp.org](http://www.nawcp.org), to reflect the change in the plan's name from North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan to North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. The old web address, [www.nacwcp.org](http://www.nacwcp.org) will work in concert with the new address for one year.

#### IBA Identification

The National Audubon Society has accepted responsibility to lead the development of IBAs for the United States. They are currently putting into place their process of identifying sites of global, continental, or national IBA status. Audubon also continues to encourage the development of IBA programs by the States.

Regional Working Groups are asked to identify key waterbird sites at the regional level, and work with John Cecil (new IBA coordinator with Audubon) to compile information required to determine a site's designation as an IBA. As John Cecil and Jennifer Wheeler come up to speed in their positions, guidance on identifying sites, determining IBA status, and information transfer, will be forthcoming.

The Plan will continue to partner with BirdLife International on IBA identification in Caribbean and Central America working with David Wege ([david.wege@birdlife.org.uk](mailto:david.wege@birdlife.org.uk)) and Ian Davidson ([davidson@birdlife.org.ec](mailto:davidson@birdlife.org.ec)).

#### Wetlands NewsLink – An Electronic Newsletter for the Waterbird Initiative

The Waterbird Initiative has partnered with the International Institute for Wetlands Science and Public Policy, Manomet Center for Conservation Science, and the USGS National Wetlands

Center to participate in the Wetlands NewsLink electronic newsletter. As of Fall 2001, the newsletter is expanding its focus to emphasize waterbird conservation, in addition to wetland conservation, and will be able to serve as one of the news channels from the North American Waterbird Conservation Initiative.

Wetlands NewsLink is a free, monthly e-mail news service. It offers synthesized information from over 90 news sources, agencies and organizations involved in wetland and waterbird conservation. The reader simply scrolls down and spots headlines that captures his/her interest. Information typically includes: headline news on wetlands, up-to-date information from conservation organizations and wetland and waterbird initiatives, the latest announcements and dates for symposia, workshops, training sessions; and new publications, books, resources and web sites.

You can email news submissions directly to the editor, Heidi Luquer, by the 25th of each month at: [Luquer@vermontel.net](mailto:Luquer@vermontel.net). In most cases, each news piece is allotted a paragraph with a notation or hot link to where the reader goes to find the full article. Wetlands NewsLink arrives each month as a quick and easy unformatted e-mail. For easier reading, just a click away is a formatted version on the web. You should also subscribe to Wetlands NewsLink by sending an e-mail to: [Luquer@vermontel.net](mailto:Luquer@vermontel.net) requesting to be added to the Wetlands NewsLink list serve.

### *Regional Waterbird Planning*

#### **Pacific Coast PUP**

There has not been much progress in the development of a regional plan. Bob Altman, American Bird Conservancy (ABC), is the BCR coordinator for the North Pacific Coast. He will be meeting with Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific Coast JV, and British Columbia provincial government agency representatives in the next few weeks to discuss the process for coordination of bird conservation activities across the border. A part of this discussion will be the status and development of the waterbird plan. ABC has submitted a proposal for a Packard Foundation grant specifically for the development of a waterbird plan for BCR 5. If acquired, this money would serve as base funding to acquire partnership funds to expand the coverage to include the entire PUP. We will be contacting individuals and agencies over the next few months to develop a strategy for plan development. - *Maura Naughton*

#### **Prairie Pothole PUP (BCR 11)**

The International BCR 11 Waterbird Conservation Plan development team currently includes representatives from federal, provincial, state and non-government wildlife agencies and naturalist groups in Canada and the United States. The partnership will be expanded to include other stakeholders as plan development progresses to address conservation issues and programs.

A meeting of the Canadian component, including the USFWS co-lead, of the BCR 11 plan development team was held February 6-7, 2001 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. An initial format design was distributed to the international team members for review and revision and final Plan format was developed at the meeting.

The species list (colonial and non-colonial) was reviewed with comments by e-mail from other team members and resulted in a final listing of 40 regular and 31 casual species. The 40 regularly occurring species have been divided among team members for drafting of individual species accounts (species account template available).

Meeting participants provided input on what current waterbird databases were available including information such as key sites, local population estimates of well-surveyed species, current survey or monitoring projects and local threats. The individuals responsible for various sources of waterbird data in the Canadian prairies have been contacted and some information, primarily for well surveyed species, has been received in the Canadian Wildlife Service office (Edmonton) where it will be rolled up with all regional data for review, digital mapping and used in refining the species prioritization for BCR 11. Similar information has been gathered for the U.S. portion of the BCR and is being processed in Bismarck.

Several introductory sections of the plan have been drafted, and a comprehensive bibliography is being developed. Further plan development has slowed with the advent of field study activities by a number of the partner agencies, however it is expected the pace will quicken with the close of the field season. A target date of November has been set for an initial draft of the BCR 11 Waterbird Conservation Plan. - *Gerry Beyersbergen (CWS) and Neal Niemuth (US FWS)*

(added later) Intermountain West/SW Desert The Waterbird Conservation Plan is proceeding, albeit slowly. We are setting up the funding for the plan at this point. Gary Ivey will be contracted through the Intermountain West Joint Venture (Jim Cole) and Ducks Unlimited, \$ provided by FWS regions 1&6, BLM of Oregon and Idaho, Bureau of Reclamation, and possibly others. Most of that is being obligated as we speak, and Gary will soon be contacting cooperators re: format, data sources, and timelines. I expect a planning meeting sometime this fall or winter. – Mike Green (US FWS)

#### Central (Mixed/Shortgrass) Prairie PUP

Work is now underway for the Central Prairies Waterbird Conservation Plan (BCRs 17, 18, 19). Initial contacts have been made and a core group of cooperators has been identified. To date, we have had two conference calls with the cooperators. Some information has been compiled regarding regional species lists and prioritization and on-going inventory and monitoring efforts. Additional information for these topics, as well as regional priority habitats, sites, key issues, and conservation projects and infrastructure is now being collected and compiled. Another conference call with all cooperators is planned for July 17. Coordinators for the Central Prairies plan are David Klute (David\_Klute@fws.gov) and Steve Moran ([steve.moran@ne.usda.gov](mailto:steve.moran@ne.usda.gov)). - *David Klute*

#### Upper Mississippi Valley/Great Lakes PUP

On June 13, 2001, sixteen people met in conjunction with the annual meeting of the International Association of Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) at Green Bay, WI to discuss Great Lakes waterbird issues and the Upper Mississippi Valley/Great Lakes (UMVGL) component of the NAWCP. Participants were from Federal, state, and provincial agencies, Partners in Flight, other NGOs, and academia. A one-day symposium on management of the Double-crested Cormorant in the Great Lakes was also held at the IAGLR meeting and provided useful information for addressing this species in the UMVGL Waterbird Conservation Plan. A draft outline for the UMVGL waterbird plan was discussed, as was the status of the NAWCP species prioritization

process, the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) program, and Canada's Wings Over Water waterbird plan.

Linda Wires and Francie Cuthbert (University of Minnesota) presented a preliminary analysis that will ultimately identify high priority colonial waterbird sites in the Great Lakes based on data from surveys conducted between the 1970s and 1990s. A number of colonial waterbird species (especially terns) shift their colony sites from year to year and land acquisition may not be the best strategy for conserving these species. Becky Able spoke about The Nature Conservancy's ecoregional planning efforts and the Wings Over the Americas program and how they relate to the waterbird plan. Charlie Paine (Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation) summarized a long-term study that he has coordinated to assess the abundance, productivity, and habitat use of wetland birds in northeastern Illinois. This work will provide much-needed information on the status of non-colonial waterbirds in part of the UMVGL region. Mark Shieldcastle presented an overview of the Ohio Division of Wildlife's marsh bird monitoring program, which will be of similar value.

The UMVGL Working Group may try to meet informally in conjunction with the Waterbird Society meeting in Ontario in November since there will be a special symposium at that meeting on current research and management issues for colonial waterbirds in the Great Lakes. - *Steve Lewis*

#### Southeast PUP

The Southeast Working Group met on July 31- August 2 on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Participants included State Agency representatives, researchers, FWS and Audubon staff from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. Planning focused on the colonial waterbirds and the coastal or near-coastal BCRs of the region.

Considerable progress was made on developing the Regional Plan. Overarching goals and a process for planning were developed. In short, the process would first involve a species-by-species assessment, including prioritization, population goals, key habitats and threats, resulting in species-based plans. Then, synthesis of habitat and threat information would be performed to develop larger-scale plans to address these elements.

The Working Group decided upon an outline for their Regional Plan, as well as a format for Species Accounts to document the individual species assessment. Species Accounts will be authored by experts identified within the region.

The status assessment (prioritization) was conducted in the Southeast Region using a summation approach similar to that used by Partners in Flight. Species lists and scores were developed for each BCR and combined to determine a regional score; members of the working group are currently reviewing these results.

The Audubon IBA coordinators (Dan Niven and John Cecil) were in attendance to discuss the treatment of IBAs. The regional working group will identify regional-level key sites based on professional judgement, and coordinate with Audubon enabling the determination of IBA designations for these sites.



The State and other coordinators reported on monitoring programs and populations (number of pairs and population trends if known) for species in their respective states, as well as the issues affecting conservation of these species. The group discussed the desirability and feasibility of standardized surveys for colonial waterbirds, and proposed an approach that would involve intensive monitoring in selected areas supplemented by periodic atlases throughout the region.

The working group also held an evening discussion on depredation issues, in order to generate feedback on the guidelines proposed by FWS for the region.

A target date of December was set for the initial draft of the document, with the tentative plan to convene again in February 2002. Leaders for the Southeast Working Group are Chuck Hunter ([Chuck.Hunter@fws.gov](mailto:Chuck.Hunter@fws.gov)) and Walker Golder ([wgolder@audubon.org](mailto:wgolder@audubon.org)). - *Jennifer Wheeler*

### Caribbean

A preliminary workshop, to introduce the North American Waterbird Conservation plan to Caribbean ornithologists was held at the Society for Caribbean Ornithology Annual Meeting, in Dominican Republic 1999. A second meeting was held at the end of July 2001, at the Society of Caribbean Ornithology meeting in Cuba. It was agreed that a comprehensive Waterbirds Plan would be a useful tool for focusing Caribbean efforts to conserve birds and their habitats, and would help to increase funding for waterbird projects in the region. As presently conceived the plan would include all groups of aquatic birds, and would cover residents, migrants and transients. SCO-sponsored programs, such as the Seabird Working Group and Wetlands Education, were seen as important activities already underway to be supported by the Plan. SCO adopted waterbird planning within the NAWCP framework as one of its activities and has appointed a Task Force to carry out the work. Ann Sutton was appointed by SCO to Chair the Task Force, which will also serve as the NAWCP's Caribbean Working Group. David Wege, Adrian del Nevo, Leo Douglas, Carolyn Wardle and Steering Committee members Jorge Saliva and Martin Acosta will be part of the core group. The group will work to find funding for writing the draft plan. Once funding has been secured, an initial draft will be produced circulated to a core group and reviewed at a workshop meeting (in February, if possible). After that, the plan will be revised as necessary and reviewed at a large workshop, with broad representation, later in the year. - *Jim Kushlan*

### Waterbird Monitoring

Southern New England/Long Island Sound Waterbird Monitoring Workshop, April 26, 2001, Stewart B. McKinney NWR, Connecticut – Andrew MacLachlan with the US Fish and Wildlife Service organized a workshop to standardize waterbird monitoring techniques in the Long Island Sound region. John Sauer, biostatistician at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and Melanie Steinkamp, waterbird monitoring coordinator, joined forces with State and federal biologists to determine ways to coordinate ongoing waterbird monitoring programs. Pilot projects were determined and initiated during the 2001 breeding season. – *Melanie Steinkamp*

Pacific Island Monitoring Workshop, July 26-27, 2001, Honolulu, Hawaii – Biostatisticians Jim Nichols and John Sauer, and national monitoring program biologists Bruce Peterjohn and Melanie Steinkamp facilitated a workshop in Honolulu to begin to develop a set of standardized

monitoring techniques for the Pacific Island region. The workshop was well attended with participants representing islands from American Samoa to Hawaii. Sampling techniques and ways to improve ongoing programs were discussed. A monitoring manual for waterbirds in the Pacific Islands will be developed over the next year. –*Melanie Steinkamp*

### *Other Plans and Programs*

#### Waterbirds and the North American Waterbird Conservation Act (NAWCA)

In 1989 Congress passed the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act) and established a matching grants program that supports private or public organizations and individuals working in partnerships to conserve wetlands throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The primary purpose of the Act is to support the long-term conservation and management of wetlands and associated uplands needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America. Recently, Congress increased the Act's authorization level up to \$50 million, reflecting its and the public's support of the Act's goals. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (AWetlands Council@), established by the Act, reviews and recommends project proposals to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which grants final approval for funding. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, USFWS, administers the program and provides technical assistance to Joint Ventures and other partnerships.

Over the past several years, the Wetlands Council has recommended for funding a wide range of projects that benefit a diversity of wetlands associated bird species. Increasingly, however, the Council has expressed an interest in assuring that *all* priority, wetlands associated migratory bird species are addressed in the range of project proposals received. Specifically, in March 2001, the Council decided that as a stated goal, the Council will give priority to projects that demonstrate contributions to the priorities of the major international and national migratory bird conservation plans. The Council directs staff to highlight projects that, taken as a whole slate, will provide major contributions to bird conservation across all wetland-associated taxonomic groups.

Subsequently, in late July 2001, the Wetlands Council recommended to the Commission for funding a slate of projects that many believe will have unprecedented benefits to a rich diversity of priority, wetlands associated birds. Examples of these projects include a wetlands and associated grasslands project in southeastern Wisconsin that will benefit black tern, least bittern, American bittern, yellow rail, and black rail; a project in the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico that will provide habitat for white-faced ibis; and a wetlands project in High Plains, South Dakota that will benefit American bitterns, Virginia rails, sora rails, and pied billed grebes. Other projects compile an impressive list of benefits to other species such as white pelican, sandhill crane, western grebe, and Clark's grebe.

Partnerships are the foundation of the Act, and thus project proposals must have a strong partnership component. Those interested in submitting a project proposal should work closely with Joint Venture Management Boards. Proposals must have linkages to regional plan(s) and strong partnerships; deadlines for U.S. Standard grants are usually in March and July of each year; small grant deadlines are usually in December. For more information, see the web page at <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov> regarding grant applications, history of the Act, staff involvement and the role of the Wetlands Council. - *Bob Ford (US FWS)*



### Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Management Board met on July 26 in Quebec City and made several key decisions affecting the future of the joint venture: The Management Board responded to a request from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to join the joint venture. After considering the importance of Puerto Rico to the priority migratory bird species utilizing the Atlantic Flyway and the commitment by Puerto Rico to providing staff and resources to participate in joint venture initiatives, the Management Board voted unanimously to include Puerto Rico in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. For additional information on the importance of Puerto Rico's habitats to migratory birds refer to the Article in the Winter 2001 issue of *Birdscapes* ("Caribbean Islands look to the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture" by Francisco Vilella on pp. 28-29).

The Management Board unanimously accepted a revised technical committee infrastructure for the joint venture. This revised infrastructure maintains the existing joint venture waterfowl technical committee and adds an Integrated Bird Conservation Committee that will include a member of the Management Board and representatives from the existing regional working groups of Partners in Flight, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan (through the joint venture technical committee) and resident gamebirds. This committee will provide guidance to the Management Board on integrated bird habitat planning and implementation in the joint venture. - *Craig Watson*

### US NABCI Committee Retreat

The US North American Bird Conservation Initiative Committee held a meeting in a retreat format on 2-3 July 2001 in West Virginia. The NAWCP was represented by Melanie Steinkamp and Jim Kushlan. The Committee discussed at length various aspects of how the NABCI vision was being implemented. Among the issues discussed and actions taken of concern to NAWCP were: to rewrite the conservation actions portion of the NABCI vision document, confirming the facilitative role of the NABCI Committee, the important role of joint-ventures and joint-venture analogues in delivering bird conservation, the role of BCR's as a biological planning unit but not necessarily a partnership unit, increased connectivity with the Flyway Councils, confirmation of the importance of the Monitoring Subcommittee and International Subcommittee, confirmation of the criteria for establishing trinational demonstration projects, and the need to devote more attention to funding infrastructure needs as well as needs outside the US. The specific needs of the Waterbird Plan inside and outside the US were highlighted in discussion.

### Upcoming Meetings

Waterbird Society Silver Anniversary (25<sup>th</sup>) Meeting, 7-11 November, Niagara Falls, Ontario  
The meeting will include oral and poster sessions for contributed papers, symposia on Waterbirds of the Great Lakes (Laird Shutt, Organizer; laird.shutt@ec.gc.ca), and Seabird Foraging Decisions (Organized by Ron Ydenberg and Dave Moore, ydenberg@sfu.ca), and

workshops on Optimal Human Disturbance (Organized by Shannon Bouton, snbouton@umich.edu), and Shorebird Monitoring Networks (Organized by Jon Bart, jbart@eagle.boisestate.edu). If you are interested in participating in a symposium, please contact the organizer listed above.

Call for Papers: Abstracts for papers should be submitted by 15 August 2001 to Peter Frederick, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, PO Box 110430, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611. Email: pcf@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

#### Texas Colonial Waterbird Society Annual Meeting

Preparations are underway for the annual meeting of the Texas Colonial Waterbird Society, which will convene in South Padre Island this November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday, Friday) at the South Padre Island Convention Center, 7355 S.P.I. Blvd, 956.761.3000. The Thursday session will be from 1:30 to 6:00 PM and the Friday session will begin at 8:45 and wrap up around 3:30PM. Presentations are being sought from researchers, students, and managers regarding Texas' waterbird species. Presentations on waterbird ecology, management, and conservation are enthusiastically requested. If you wish to be on the mailing list or wish to attend please contact Richard E. Gibbons (1305 N. Shoreline Blvd. Suite 205, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401), [rgibbons@cbbep.org](mailto:rgibbons@cbbep.org) (361) 885.6248.

#### IAFWA Meeting

The IAFWA Shorebird and Waterbird Working Group will meet on September 13, 2001, at the International's annual meeting in Wichita, Kansas. This is the working group, under the leadership of Steve Miller, that facilitates the work of the North American Waterbird Conservation Initiative and US Shorebird Plan through communication with IAFWA, State agencies, and funding sources. It reports to the Migratory Bird Committee. Jim Kushlan and Melanie Steinkamp represent NAWCP on the Working Group. If there are other individuals interested in representing the waterbird plan, please let Melanie know (Melanie\_Steinkamp@usgs.gov).